

Inside ICE



ICE agents sort through some of the \$5 million in counterfeit NFL and Super Bowl merchandise seized during "Operation End Zone."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ICE Arrests California Couple On Slavery Charge	2
ICE Chicago's Special Response Team Earns Awards, Respect	3
Mexican Authorities Nab One of ICE's "Most Wanted" Fugitives	4
ICE Wins 16-Year Legal Battle Against Terrorist	4
ICE Case Gets Three Men 24 Years in Prison For Smuggling, Hostages	5
ICE Investigation Gets Israeli Man Trafficking Club Drug "Ecstasy"	5
On Duty in Iraq	6

ICE SEIZES \$5M IN FAKE NFL GOODS

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—A joint operation by ICE, the National Football League (NFL) and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office at Super Bowl XXXIX seized about 20,000 counterfeit items valued at more than \$5 million.

Called "Operation End Zone," the initiative has also resulted in three arrests and one conviction thus far. It was launched more than a year ago to specifically target criminal organizations and individuals selling counterfeit merchandise in the months and days leading up to the Super Bowl. The effort intensified as

game day, which was February 6, approached.

In the initial phases of Operation End Zone, the ICE Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Center in Washington, D.C., and the ICE Office of Investigations in Jacksonville produced a brochure on counterfeit goods in conjunction with the NFL. This brochure and other materials were issued to more than 100 businesses in the area involved in the import/export of commodities and local sales. The brochure was also included in the Super Bowl Host Committee's magazine and distributed widely to solicit help

from the public and from those authorized to sell Super Bowl merchandise.

ICE agents in Jacksonville also conducted numerous outreach presentations at Super Bowl Host Committee meetings and other business forums to educate the public and business community leaders about the ongoing anti-counterfeiting enforcement initiative.

These outreach efforts paid dividends as NFL investigators, ICE agents and local law enforcement officials received substantial assistance from the local business

Continued on Page 2

ICE SEIZES \$5M IN FAKE SUPER BOWL ITEMS

Continued from Page 1

community in identifying purveyors of counterfeit goods. Investigators seized thousand of counterfeit NFL jerseys, caps and other souvenirs being sold at flea markets, souvenir stands and from the backs of vehicles for cut-rate prices.

In a single two-day enforcement action in January, agents and officers seized more than 5,500 counterfeit items, including knock-off NFL properties, Oakley sunglasses, batteries and purses from vendors in Jacksonville. The more than 20,000 counterfeit goods seized in the operation have filled local law enforcement warehouses in Jackson-

ville. Two federal criminal indictments have resulted. One of the defendants has pleaded guilty.

Operation End Zone is just one example of ICE's ongoing efforts to enforce Intellectual Property Rights laws nationwide. As recently as last May, the United States Trade Representative estimated that U.S. industry loses between \$200 and \$250 billion to counterfeiting every year. As the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, ICE plays a leading role in targeting criminal organizations responsible for producing, smuggling and distributing counterfeit products.

In Fiscal Year 2004, ICE agents arrested 218 individuals and brought 140 indictments for Intellectual Property Rights violations, roughly double the 132 arrests and 70 indictments brought by ICE the prior fiscal year.

At the same time, ICE agents and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers together made 7,255 seizures of counterfeit goods worth \$138 million in FY 2004, up from the roughly 6,500 seizures worth \$94 million the prior fiscal year. Together ICE and CBP have seized more than \$600 million worth of counterfeit goods from FY 1998 through FY 2004.

ICE ARRESTS COUPLE ON SLAVERY CHARGES

IRVINE, Calif.—An Irvine couple targeted in a joint investigation by ICE and the Irvine Police Department was indicted February 2 by a federal grand jury for allegedly enslaving a 12-year-old girl in their garage for two years and forcing her to work as a domestic servant for their family of seven.

Abdel Nasser Eid Youssef Ibrahim, 44, and Amal Ahmed Ewis-abd Motelib, 41, were named in a four-count indictment accusing them of conspiring to hold the victim in involuntary servitude and obtaining her services by force and coercion. "This case is a graphic illustration

of the horror of human trafficking and the inhumane conditions that some victims are subjected to," said Kumar Kibble, ICE assistant special agent-in-charge for Orange County. "It is a sad reflection on human greed, where, even in the most affluent neighborhoods, adults think they can take advantage of a helpless child – particularly from their home country."

The indictment alleges that Ibrahim and Motelib obtained the victim's services through extortion and threats against the victim's sister in Egypt. The couple then arranged through a third party to fraudulently obtain a visa for the victim so she could travel to the United States.

Ibrahim and Motelib are accused of harboring the victim "in squalid conditions and concealing her presence from immigration authorities, school, and police officials so that she could serve their family as a domestic servant."

Ibrahim and Motelib allegedly forced the girl to work inside their

house, with little or no pay, by threatening her with bodily harm and actually striking her. According to the indictment, the couple also warned the victim that her sister would be arrested in Egypt, and that she, herself, would be arrested by the police if she left the house. The girl was held by Ibrahim and Motelib from August 2000 until April 9, 2002, when she was freed by authorities.

The case against Ibrahim and Motelib is the first case brought under the purview of the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force, formed last year to increase the identification and prosecution of human trafficking cases in Orange County. In addition to ICE, members of the Task Force include the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Labor and a host of local and state police, prosecutors, labor agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Inside ICE is an e-newsletter produced by the ICE Office of Public Affairs to inform the public about the mission, operations and activities of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Please send comments and contributions to:

InsideICE@dhs.gov

Russ Bergeron
Editor

ICE CHICAGO SRT EARNS AWARDS, RESPECT

In the high pressure and high-risk world of special weapons and tactics, ICE Chicago's Special Response Team (SRT) has proven itself a winner.

But for the Chicago SRT, winning means more than just garnering awards at special weapons and tactics (SWAT) team competitions. It means successfully and safely executing high-risk search and arrest warrants. It means being prepared, with little notice, for any operation that requires specialized equipment or involves unique circumstances. It means conducting surveillance in both urban and rural locations, including the ability to establish a "hide site" and remain there for several days. It means providing covert sniper cover for ICE agents involved in undercover operations.

"We train to conduct high-risk enforcement operations, and our training ensures that we do this in as safe a manner as possible," said Robert Koon, Jr., the ICE Chicago SRT Tactical Supervisor and a group supervisor in the Chicago Office of Investigations. "The use of SRT or SWAT teams has proven to lessen the likelihood of a suspect resisting. Consequently, the use of highly trained tactical teams lessens the likelihood of injuries to officers, suspects and bystanders."

For Chicago's SRT, which was formed in May 2003 from legacy INS and Customs agents, the initial training is an intensive two-week tactical basic training course at Ft. Benning, Ga. But for the 13 members of the team

(two additional members are in basic training), the initial training is just the beginning of a continual process of training and exercises to hone the skills in an occupation that usually has no margin for error.

"The Chicago SRT has the full backing of the Chicago Special Agent-in-Charge Elissa Brown," Koon said. "She supports the extensive training for our team that has enabled us to become a cohesive working unit."

Team members are trained and certified to



Members of the ICE Chicago Special Response Team approach a building prepared for a high-risk, forced entry during a training exercise. The team, while relatively new, has earned respect from its peers and numerous awards in competitions.

do helicopter deployments and extractions; covert intelligence and surveillance; a wide variety of building entry and clearance techniques; and they spend extensive time on the shooting range to gain familiarity and accuracy with a wide variety of weapons.

They also conduct cross training with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's hostage negotiation unit for hostage rescue situations, in case an agent gets taken hostage or an alien is held by smugglers for ransom. In addition, two team members are certified emergency medical technicians and two more are in training. Each SRT team member carries a bag with 150 lbs. of gear with them at all times for immediate mobilization. In recent months, all the training has paid off.

In May of 2004, the Chicago SRT assisted in the arrest of Aurora, Ill., police officer Scott Wolters, who had been indicted on child pornography charges. Wolters, ex-military and at that time a current police officer, was himself a former member of a SWAT team. It was a difficult, potentially dangerous arrest. But thanks to the training, planning and intelligence gathered by Chicago's SRT, this arrest was made without incident. In addition, the team has recently provided 24-hour security for an ICE agent's family after the agent received a death threat from a gang member.

Last year, the Chicago SRT participated in a SWAT competition in Bourbonnais, Ill. Even though the team is new and some of its members were in training at Ft. Benning, the team did very well, taking a first, a second, two thirds and finishing in fourth place overall.



ICE Chicago SRT team members practice entry through an elevated window during a recent training exercise. Training is a continual process for the team, which conducts operations where there is generally no margin for error.

MEXICO ARRESTS ICE "MOST WANTED" FUGITIVE

WASHINGTON, D.C.— A man arrested in Mexico January 27 has been positively identified as Jose Alvarez-Tostado, a.k.a. "El Compadre," one of ICE's "Ten Most Wanted" fugitives.



Jose Alvarez-Tostado

Mexican authorities arrested Alvarez in Guadalajara late last week on charges in Mexico relating to organ-

ized crime and money laundering.

Alvarez, who was designated as a "Foreign Narcotics Kingpin" by President Bush in June 2001, has been one of ICE's Ten Most Wanted fugitives for seven years. He was indicted in May 1998 in Los Angeles for operating a continuing criminal enterprise; money laundering and conspiracy to launder money; and conspiracy to aid and abet the distribution of a controlled substance.

According to the U.S. indictment, Alvarez served as the de facto financial manager of Mexico's Juarez drug cartel, collecting and laundering millions of dollars from cartel drug sales in cities across the United States. Among other things, the indictment alleges that Alvarez

collected more than \$40 million from drug sales and transferred the funds to Mexican accounts on behalf of the late Amado Carrillo Fuentes, the reputed chief of the Juarez drug cartel.

Alvarez was one of 112 individuals indicted in an undercover ICE investigation called "Operation Casablanca." When Operation Casablanca culminated in May 1998, it was considered the largest drug money laundering investigation in U.S. history. Launched in 1995, the investigation targeted professional money launderers for Colombia's Cali drug cartel and Mexico's Juarez drug cartel, as well as numerous Mexican and Venezuelan bankers who helped launder their drug proceeds.

ICE WINS 16-YEAR LEGAL FIGHT AGAINST TERRORIST

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.— A terrorist's 16-year fight to avoid being deported from the United States ended Jan. 31 when ICE officers escorted him back to his native India.



Charenjit Singh

organizations in India. His deportation followed a precedent-setting decision in September 2004 by the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

"The deportation caps a key victory for ICE and closes a chapter in a very long fight to deport someone

who violated our laws," said Robb Emery, Division Chief of ICE's National Security Law Division. "He is not the first terrorist to have tried to exploit the immigration system, but we are committed to preventing others like him from succeeding."

Singh's case stretches back to September 1989. Singh was arrested and placed in deportation proceedings on September 29, 1989, two days after he illegally entered the United States. After initially being ordered deported for failing to attend his immigration hearing, Singh successfully petitioned the immigration court to reopen his case and have it transferred to Philadelphia, where he eventually filed an application for lawful permanent resident status. His case was finally heard in January 1997 and in February 1998 an immigration judge granted Singh lawful permanent resident status, despite his admitted membership in two terrorist groups.

ICE appealed the decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals, arguing that Singh was never eligible for legal status in the United States because of his membership in the terrorist groups. One of those organizations, Babbar Khalsa, is officially designated by the U.S. Department of State as a terrorist organization.

The board sustained ICE's appeal on February 25, 2003, and ordered Singh deported. Singh appealed to the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals, which affirmed the board's decision. ICE special agents arrested Singh Sept. 27, 2004, and he was held in Philadelphia until he was deported.

ICE attorneys litigated more than 300,000 removal cases in immigration court in the 2004 Fiscal Year, as well as more than 48,000 appeals cases before the Board of Immigration Appeals.

"CYBER ANGEL" TIP LEADS ICE TO ARREST ALASKA PREDATOR

ANCHORAGE, Alaska— A tip from the public led to the arrest of a 44-year-old man for online enticement January 21 after a joint investigation between the Anchorage Police Department and ICE.

Christian John Hansen was charged with one count of attempted online enticement of a minor for sex, a violation that carries a mandatory minimum sentence of five years.

The investigation into Hansen's activities began on January 9, after a concerned citizen contacted police. This "cyber angel" reported she had been in a chat room and an individual using the screen name CURROCREO had been soliciting underage minors for sex.

The cyber angel further reported that a link to the profiles page revealed a photo of Chris Hansen with the screen name CURROCREO. Investigators from the Anchorage police's Crimes Against Children Unit and ICE special agents monitored Hansen's chats with a 14-year-old girl over several days. Hansen soon proposed a meeting with the girl for the purpose of engaging in sexual intercourse. Agents and officers arrested Hansen before the meeting could occur.

THREE GET 24 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SMUGGLING, HOLDING ALIENS

HOUSTON, Texas—Three of six Hondurans convicted of hostage taking and alien smuggling were each sentenced February 4 to more than 24 years in prison following an investigation by ICE.

Jose Marlon Ibarra-Zelaya, 26, Jose Efrain Linares-Tabora, 27, and Marvin Arturo Peralta-Ramirez, 23, were the first three sentenced after six men were convicted in October in federal court on hostage taking and alien smuggling. The three others - Edy Guardado-Mezen, Henry Gutierrez-Andrade, and Elbin Geovanny-Mezen - are scheduled to be sentenced in March.

"We are pleased with today's sentences," said Joseph R. Webber, special agent-in-charge for the ICE Houston office. "We've seen a recent escalation in violence in smuggling cases, a trend that places our communities in danger. We will use every available tool at our disposal to combat these violent encounters."

During a six-day trial last year, the government disclosed that a 911 call made March 12 reported that several ille-

gal aliens were being held at gunpoint inside an apartment. Houston police set up surveillance and noticed a vehicle matching the description from the phone call. Police stopped the driver and discovered that none of the occupants had proper identification.

When police escorted Griselda Barnica-Magariegoz, 25, to an apartment to retrieve her identification, officers noticed several people running to a back bedroom and contacted ICE for assistance. When ICE special agents arrived on scene, 15 undocumented aliens were arrested along with six smugglers. Some aliens had been able to escape through a bathroom window before ICE agents arrived. ICE agents also recovered several weapons from the toilet tank inside the bathroom.

According to ICE special agents, many of the undocumented aliens identified the defendants as the perpetrators who burst into an apartment with pistols and forced all the aliens to get into waiting vehicles. These smugglers had stolen a smuggling load from rival smugglers. The smuggled aliens were then transported to another apartment located on Greens Parkway.

Witnesses also identified Edy Guardado-Mezen as the smuggler who had placed a gun to the head of a rival female smuggler and robbed her of \$5,000. After the smuggled aliens arrived in Houston, the six defendants took the group of 15 undocumented aliens to the Greens Parkway apartment in several vehicles.

ICE CASE LEADS TO ISRAELI MAN TRAFFICKING IN "ECSTASY" DRUG

LOS ANGELES, Calif.— An Israeli national faces extradition to the United States after an ICE investigation led to his arrest in Johannesburg, South Africa, for his role allegedly importing millions of doses of "Ecstasy" from Europe into the United States.

Meir Elran (a.k.a. Meir Elran Ben Hamo), 38, was taken into custody January 28 on narcotics smuggling and money laundering charges by the South African Police Service based on an arrest warrant issued in Los Angeles last year.

The charges stem from Operation Money Man, a joint international undercover operation that began in March 2002 when ICE agents learned that a group comprised primarily of Israeli nationals were trafficking Ecstasy in the Los Angeles area. Elran is one of 14 arrested in the investigation thus far.

As a result of Operation Money Man, authorities have seized more than 300,000 doses of Ecstasy with a street value of nearly \$7 million.

Inside ICE

425 I St NW
Washington, D.C. 20536
Attn: Office of Public Affairs

Russ Bergeron, Editor
Phone: 202-514-2648
Fax: 202-514-1776
Email: Russ.Bergeron@dhs.gov

Visit us on the Web and register
for your free copy of
Inside ICE!!

We're on the Web!
www.ICE.gov

www.ice.gov

Toll-Free Tip Line
1-866-DHS-2ICE



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, responsible for the enforcement of border, immigration, customs, infrastructure and transportation security laws.

On Duty In Iraq



ICE Senior Special Agent and U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Michael H. Gellick, currently serving as a liaison officer assigned to the 4th Civil Affairs Group, First Marine Expeditionary Force, walks along a street with neighborhood kids in Qaryat al Jaffah, Iraq, during a civil affairs mission in September 2004. Gellick's unit, a Marine civil affairs group with the Third Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment from Bridgeton, Mo., works to establish and strengthen relationships with Iraqi citizens. Gellick, who in civilian life works in ICE's office in Cleveland, Ohio, has been serving as a liaison officer between the Iraqi police and the citizens of Bagdad, Qaryat al Jaffah and Fallujah. The unit has recently been working to help Iraqi residents resettle in Fallujah, an enclave for insurgents and terrorists in Iraq until an assault by the Marines late last year. (U.S. Marines photo)